

On the Dry Side

March 2014

CCCSS February Meeting Recap

2/9/2014

The day finally arrived when we moved to our new “home”. We now have plenty of room for our increasing membership! The few tireless members of our club came early to set up the chairs and tables for the meeting. Charles Varni did his usual wonderful introduction of new members. Rob Skillin discussed the Plant-of-the-Month.... Melocactus. The club then enjoyed a discussion on *Winter Growing Succulents* hosted by our own Gene Schroeder, Markus Mumper, and Rob Skillin. And as per our custom, the meeting concluded with refreshments and the plant raffles.

We are required to set up and take down the chairs and tables; any help would be greatly appreciated by all!

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Excell, CCCSS Editor

(Our wonderful secretary, Carol Moss, is “under-the-weather”. Let’s wish her a speedy recovery!)



Main meeting hall



Annex for plant sales and refreshments

NEXT MEETING:

Sunday
March 9 at 2:00
pm

THE ODD FELLOWS HALL

520 DANA ST.
(off Nipomo St)



PLENTY OF **FREE** PARKING

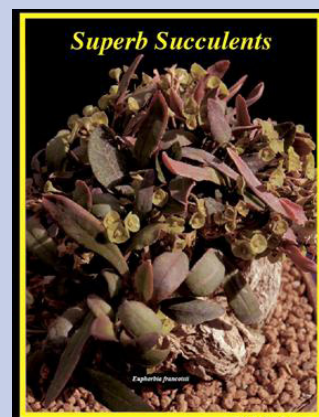
WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

March Program!

Duke Benadom



Duke Benadom has been involved with several cactus and succulent clubs and is a life member of three. He became a Director for the Cactus & Succulent Society of America (CSSA) in 1990, served as the CSSA's Show Chairman for more than a decade, and as Convention Chairman for six conventions. He served as Vice President and then President for a total of almost ten years, and as Editor of the Cactus & Succulent Journal for just over a year. He has been the author of the long-running CSJ column, ***Superb Succulents***, since its inception; that column remains popular today. Duke's first book, ***Superb Succulents***, was published on September 25, 2013. Three more books are in process.



Duke will be presenting a digital program on those species of *Echinocereus* that are autochthonous to the United States. Taxonomy on this genus has undergone continuous change for the past couple of decades, and authorities are still in disagreement. Nevertheless, it's a fascinating genus of diverse plants, and is probably the most spectacular in flowering and form. Duke is almost finished writing and publishing a large book on *Echinocereus*, but it will not be printed in time for the meeting. However, he will be bringing copies of his new book, ***Superb Succulents***, and he will have plants for sale.

Release Your Inner Picasso



Our 8th Annual Show & Sale is coming up quickly!
Start thinking about a T-shirt design for this years shirt.
We will be voting on a design at the April meeting.



Some quick guidelines:

- Try to keep it simple. Detail gets lost in the printing process.
- Limit your design to 4 or 5 colors. Each color costs the club money because of the technicalities of the silk screen process. (\$25 per screen/color... this cost is added to the shirt price. ex: 4 colors= \$100 set up fee)
- Pictures are very expensive to reproduce (a minimum \$250 set up fee... again, this cost must be added to the shirt price.) So, think about converting your photo of choice to a 4 or 5 color graphic design.

Most of all, have fun! It is very satisfying seeing your design on our members "backsides".

COME CELEBRATE SPRING AT THE SKILLIN OPEN-GREENHOUSE DAY

Saturday, March 22nd, 2014, 10:00 to 3:00
Skillin Ranch, 8910 Camino Cielo, Arroyo Grande

Enjoy a glass of wine and refreshments while touring Rob's personal collection of cacti and succulents. Rob will also be offering a wide variety of plants for sale – everything from inexpensive starter collectables, to show-ready specimens – all propagated and grown on the premises.



For information please call Rob or Terry at (805)709-3033

Plant of the Month: Echinocereus

by Kathie Matsuyama

Echinocereus was first named by George Engelmann in 1848. He considered it to be a spiny-fruited relative of the smooth-fruited Cereus genus. The first part of the genus name Echinocereus, comes from the Greek word Echinus meaning “porcupine” or “hedgehog” referring to the spines that cover the plant. The Latin word cereus means “large wax candle” and is also the name of a columnar cactus genus. The genus name implies: “spiny cereus”. They are frequently referred to as the Hedgehog Cactus.

There are as few as 44 or as many as 60 species of Echinocereus, depending on how many of the numerous varieties are recognized as full species. They are found from south-central Mexico to Kansas and Oklahoma, north to Wyoming, and west to California. About half of the Echinocereus species occur in the southwestern U.S. There are two species native to California: Echinocereus engelmannii and Echinocereus triglochidiatus. Echinocereus engelmannii has flowers that emerge directly from areoles, like most cacti, and in contrast to most other Echinocereus. Echinocereus triglochidiatus is the only red-flowered cactus in California and Nevada. It is one of only three Echinocereus pollinated by hummingbirds.

Echinocereus inhabit a wide range of habitats growing from low elevation deserts to mountainsides of 8000 feet or more and under Ponderosa forests to coastal plains. Echinocereus come from predominantly summer-rainfall areas and tend to be found in fully exposed, dry microclimates such as vertical rock faces, slopes of scree or arid flats. Root systems are smaller than in some other cacti. There can be a tremendous amount of variation within species and this can make identification tricky at times.

Many Echinocereus form large clumps, but some cluster only sparingly and some are solitary. In the wild, some species may form mounds of many hundreds of stems, but this takes many years and these same species are still quite manageable in cultivation.

Echinocereus have some of the most brilliant flowers of the cactus family. Plants flower in the spring and summer. Flowers come in many colors, including white, yellow, pink, purple, red, bicolored, and even green. Many species feature two-toned flowers with one color toward the center and another color on the outer parts of the flower. The flowers, which open during the day, can be 3 inches or more in diameter and feature spiny floral tubes. The stigmas are usually green. Unique to the genus, emerging flower buds tear through the plant's skin above an areole, leaving a scar after fading, rather than arising from areoles or axils between areoles as in other cacti. The showy red fruits of several species are large, juicy, and enjoyed for their strawberry-like flavor. They were eaten by indigenous peoples when they could gather them before they were eaten by birds and squirrels.

There is a wide variety of spination that includes some of the fiercest and most dramatic spines covering the plant stem so that the stem is not even visible. Most have moderately sized spines evenly distributed along the stem. Some have very colorful spines that can be in alternating patterns. Some have pectinate (comb-like) spines and some are nearly spineless. The spines are arranged on ribs. The ribbed stems help distinguish Echinocereus from Mammillarias, with which they are sometimes confused. Spines are straight or slightly curved, never hooked as in many Mammillarias.

Hints for successful culture: shallow, fast-draining mineral soil without organics, full sun, no winter water and let the plant dry out between watering in the summer. Periods of most active growth are late winter through early spring and fall through early winter. Many plants rest during the hottest part of the year and don't need much watering.

For information about specific culture requirements for more than 90 different species and varieties of Echinocereus here is a great website:

<http://www.desert-tropicals.com/Plants/Cactaceae/Echinocereus.html>

And for additional information about Echinocereus, refer to the article by Tom Glavich in the archived May 2012 newsletter on our website:

<http://centralcoastcactus.org/newsletters/CCCSS%20May%202012%20Newsletter%20Color.pdf>

References:

Edward F. Anderson, The Cactus Family

Stephen Ingram, Cacti, Agaves, and Yuccas of California and Nevada

Cactiguide.com

Mark A. Dimmitt, A Natural History of the Sonoran Desert



Echinocereus pulchellus

Upcoming Events

Mar 28-30

Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Spring Show and Sale. Fri/Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4. 1000 S. State College Blvd. Anaheim, CA. 562-587-3357.

April 27

Huntington Plant Sale. Huntington Botanical Gardens. 10-5. 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA. For info: 626-405-2160.

May 4

South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale. 9a- 4p. South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes, CA. 310-833-6823.

May 17

Santa Barbara CSS Show and Sale, 10-3. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 909 N. La Cumbre Rd. Santa Barbara Ca. 93110.

May 17-18

Long Beach Cactus Club Plant Show & Sale 10-5 www.lbcss.org Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach Info (310) 922-6090.

LIBRARY NEWS

Thanks to the generosity of the bidders at our Holiday Party, the auction of library books produced sufficient funds to purchase some new books. They represent my vision of a new direction for the library in which we will concentrate on stocking the library with newer, lower priced books that offer wider appeal to the general membership. The recently added books by Schulz & Kapitany on succulents (a series of 3) and Timber Press's Guide to Succulent Plants of the World. This is as opposed to specialized, scholarly and usually expensive books aimed at the very advanced student or collector.

Following this line we have purchased the following for addition to our library.

A Gardener's Guide to Cactus, by Scott Calhoun – the author presents the 100 best cacti and shows how to use them in your garden or a container with planting and care tips.

Cactus & Succulents for Cold Climates , by Leo Chance – 274 plants suitable for drought tolerant, cold hardy gardens. Tips on bed preparation, planting, watering, winter protection etc to ensure survival in areas where we usually don't think of these plants.

The Genus Echeveria, by John Pilbeam – A thorough treatment of this popular genus. Includes cultivation, classification and distribution of over 140 species. Accompanied by 474 color photos and the authors easy to read commentary.

Echinocereus, by John Pilbeam – Another treatment of a popular genus well known for it's striking form and flowers. Plants native to the US and Mexico with many being very cold-tolerant. Great landscape or container subjects for our area. A lot of detailed information and images but presented in a very easy to read style.

Haworthia for the Collector, by Rudolf Schulz – There are many books on Haworthia but most focus on plants in habitat or taxonomy. This book focus on the needs of the collector: identification, care, health and propagation. Almost all you need to know in order to collect and enjoy this wonderful group of plants.

Mesembs of the World, by Gideon Smith – A well illustrated and easy to read overview of most current mesemb genera. In addition to a guide to the major groups, it includes information on cultivation, identification, distribution, and uses of this unique group of succulent plants.

Pachyforms II, by Philippe de Vosjoli and Rudy Lime – Part II of this series on caudiciform and pachycaul plants. Over 300 photos with cultivation tips and advice from the "Father of Succulent Bonsai" Rudy Lime.

Prickly Pears, by Cheryl Green and David Ferguson – Charles Spotts showed this book at last month's presentation. Said it was his favorite for the American species. I agree, and though it is out of print, I found a copy and have added it as well.

I hope that this list has something for everyone, especially the "over the grade" members which found little help in our prior offerings. All are in process of being added to the on-line listings now and will be available for checkout in March.

Members may check out books on a monthly basis. If there is a specific book you are interested in, please contact our librarian, Gene Schroeder (CCCSS.library@gmail.com), so he will be sure to bring it to the next monthly meeting (the library is too large to bring all the books to every meeting).

This list is by book title but if you download a copy, it can be searched for any individual word.

[Link to a downloadable copy of our list of library books.](#)



As mentioned in the February meeting; below is a link to a pdf that you can print as a reference guide on HARDY ALOES.

Brian Kremble's List of Hardy Aloes

http://www.smgrowers.com/info/brian_aloe.pdf



Take in Some Nature and Enjoy Our Hobby

[Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA](#)

[Anza-Borrego Desert State Park](#)

[Death Valley National Park](#)

[Joshua Tree National Park](#)

[Mojave National Preserve](#)

[The Living Desert Wildlife & Botanical Park, Palm Springs, CA](#)

[The Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia, CA](#)

POLICY FOR ADS

This is your club! We would like you to have the ability to share your club related items so your Board of Directors implemented a new policy.

"6.1 Individual club members may be allowed to place an announcement in the eNewsletter for plant related/club related items that might be of interest to the members. There will be no charge for the announcement and it should be limited to 30 words, and can include an optional small picture, and contact information; it can run for one month with an extension upon a re-submission of the ad material. The proposed ad must be emailed to the Newsletter Editor 2 weeks prior to the next CCCSS Monthly Membership Meeting meeting. It might not appear in the print version due to space limitations."

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

The CCCSS South Central Coast Succulent Tour will be held on Saturday, June 14. It will feature self-guided tours of at least six gardens in the south county area. Each garden has a different group of cacti and succulents in a variety of settings. The tour will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and will culminate with a potluck dinner at the Matsuyama's. More details will be released as they develop.

Questions? Wayne Mills (805) 481-3495



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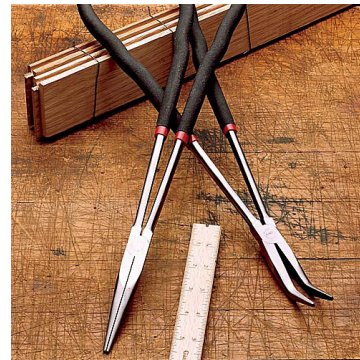
PLIERS

Here is the info on the pliers that Pat Gilson located. They came from: <http://www.garrettwade.com/>

800-221-2942

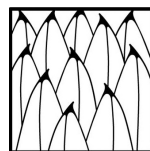
16" long handle needle nose pliers,

Stock #05R02.10 for both (\$25.75), #05R02.05 for the bent pliers, #05R02.06 for the straight (\$16.95/ea individual price).



Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society
On the web at: <http://centralcoastcactus.org/>

CLUB OFFICERS/ CONTACT INFORMATION



EDITOR: Terry Excell: txlraiders@gmail.com

1680 13th St. Los Osos, CA, 93402

All submissions to the CCCSS newsletter **must be submitted two weeks prior** to the monthly meeting.

PRESIDENT

Charles Varni
charles@varni.org
459-6698

VICE PRESIDENT

Kathie Matsuyama
luvbigdogs@earthlink.net
929-4692

SECRETARY

Carol Moss
carol.moss@gmail.com
438-4906

TREASURER

Maggie Wagner
margaretwagner@gmail.com
773-1499

CSSA AFFILIATE

Rob Skillin
709-3033

AT-LARGE

Loring Manley
loring.manley@gmail.com
934-3246

AT-LARGE

Harry Harlow
maryharlow50@gmail.com
438-5308

LIBRARIAN

Gene Schroeder
Leschroeder@earthlink.net
929-2161

PUBLICITY

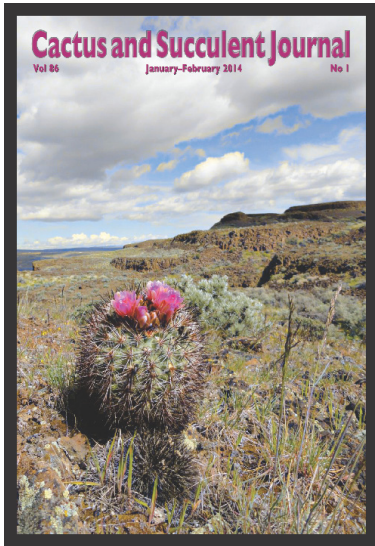
Wayne Mills
wwmills50@hotmail.com
481-3495

HOSPITALITY

Pat Gilson
hupt74@att.net
481-5596

A one time free newsletter will be mailed out to those who sign in at the monthly meetings. After this dues must be paid in order to start a subscription.

CCSSA CORNER



Volume 86 begins with a clarification of the identity of *Agave gigantensis* by Robert Webb and Gregg Starr. The article well illustrates the differences between this species and *Agave sobria* from the same area, with which *A. gigantensis* has been confused. Gideon Smith and Estrela Figueiredo give us a guided tour of the Hanbury Gardens (also known as La Mortola) in Italy. Two new species of *Avonia* are created by Graham Williamson's article, where he elevates them from subspecies level to full species. Featured on the cover is a beautiful specimen of *Pediocactus nigrispinus*, one of many shown in Dixie Dringman's article on them in habitat on the land owned by Dave Bishop in Washington State. Duke Benadom's *Super Succulents* features a highly contrasting pair this month, a bizarre *Astrophytum* cultivar and *Lithops lesliei*. Sharp eyes and a convenient place to sit resulted in the discovery of *Sedum minimum* in Veracruz, Mexico, a new record for the state, documented by Miguel Chazaro and co-workers. Root Gorelick brings the issue to an end with an account of *Sclerocactus parviflorus* growing along the trails in Arches

and Canyonlands National Parks. Root has also been busy completing *Haseltonia 19*, which amongst many interesting, has a must-read article on *Huernia* by Darrel Plowes. If you didn't order a copy when you renewed your membership, now is the time to do so.

PLANTERA PRIMAL

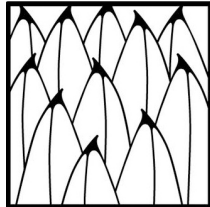
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